

THE TROUBLES OF THE NATION.
INTERESTING NEWS FROM WASHINGTON.

Reiterated Assurances of the Pacific Intentions of the Administration.

The Southern Commissioners Satisfied that Peace will be Preserved.

THE EFFECTS OF THE RIVAL TARIFF LAWS.

The Inland Routes South and the Gulf Ports Closed Against Northern Smugglers.

The Appointments and Confirmations to Office, &c., &c., &c.

THE PEACE OF THE COUNTRY TO BE PRESERVED.

WASHINGTON, March 20, 1861.
There is a perpetual fever of excitement and a world of inquiry as to the policy of the administration towards the South. A new rumor captures the city every twenty-four hours. It would be well, however, that the public understand that these rumors are started for specific purposes, sometimes to constrain the administration, but more frequently to inspire with madness the population of the border States.

The concentration of all the available naval force along the Southern coast is regarded as very significant. The Southern Commissioners, however, have the positive assurance from the administration that no movement of troops, or reinforcements of forts in the Confederate States, will be permitted for the present. The present state is to remain.

The Commissioners do not believe that the government of the United States will violate that pledge. However they keep their government at Montgomery fully advised, and the commanders of the several forts in the Confederate States are on the alert day and night, watching for the vessels that recently departed from the Northern ports.

The administration is aware of the significance of the action of the border slave States, and of the control which Virginia exerts over them. They have been assured that this veteran State is in the hands of the conservative, Union loving and constitutional right exalting men of her citizens. Nothing, it is said, will be done to embarrass their salutary action. The inflammatory and unsubstantiated declarations of the States and the Chambers do not represent the views of the administration. Mr. Lincoln says if the laws can be executed they shall be; if they cannot, they will not be. They will not be executed to the production of war.

Among the foreign Ministers on the floor of the Senate this morning, were those from the Confederate States. They attracted considerable attention.

Commissioner Forsyth has left for New York, where he will remain a week or ten days. Himself and colleagues are firm in the opinion that the public peace will not be broken. They have assurances from Montgomery that there shall be no collision while they remain in Washington. Their policy is "masterly inactivity," awaiting the pleasure of the administration.

Powerful influences have been brought to bear on the President, within the past few days, in favor of a pacific solution of the question.

WASHINGTON, March 20, 1861.
Much curiosity is manifested respecting the action of the administration relative to affairs in the South, and various rumors prevail in this connection. But information derived from authentic sources warrant the assertion that whatever movements may be in progress they in no wise involve whatever of a hostile design. On the contrary, they are in the direction of peace. It is generally agreed, however, that the military status of the Gulf ports now held by the federal government will be preserved.

The Commissioners from the Confederate States will leave for the action of the government. Great efforts are being made by distinguished gentlemen to effect a peaceful solution of the Southern complications. The government at Montgomery has no apprehensions of a collision at Fort Pickens. It is said that the accounts published are gross exaggerations of the true condition of affairs in that quarter. The Commissioners have information that the best of feeling exists between the federal authorities and the officers in command of the Confederate troops, and that no danger of a collision is entertained.

MR. CORWIN AND THE IMPORTANCE OF HIS MISSION TO MEXICO.

WASHINGTON, March 20, 1861.
I learn from an undoubted source that the administration has determined upon the adoption of a vigorous policy in connection with Mexican affairs, and that Mr. Corwin, if he will accept the mission, will be instructed to repair at once to the city of Mexico, and commence negotiations for a treaty which shall guarantee the independence of that country. The President believes that one of the earliest steps which will be taken by the Southern confederacy will be to encourage a foray upon the adjacent Mexican States. It is understood that Mr. McCullough, the celebrated Texas Ranger, is now in Richmond purchasing arms for the purpose of organizing a large military force to march across the Rio Grande. The leaders in the Southern confederacy avow their intention of extending their territorial limits over Mexico, and no time is to be lost in commencing the movement. The administration believe that this filibuster campaign can only be effectually checked by entering into a treaty with Mexico, guaranteeing her independence, and inducing England and France to join in the project. If Mr. Corwin is successful in his mission, it is believed Mr. McCullough will find a more formidable antagonist than his old friends, the Mexicans, and that he will be obliged to measure swords with troops already inured to warfare in the Crimean campaigns.

THE CASE OF GOVERNOR FLOYD.

WASHINGTON, March 20, 1861.
The two indictments against Governor Floyd in the court here have been dismissed as untenable. The first was for conspiring to defraud the government. The District Attorney stated in open court that there was no evidence to sustain the charge, and, with leave of the Court, entered a *nolle prosequi*. The second was for malfeasance in office in issuing acquiescence. The act of 1857 prohibits a prosecution where the party implicated has testified before a committee of Congress touching the matter charged. This has been decided to not a privilege of the witness but a mandate of law, and the case would have come to an abrupt termination on the fact appearing in the course of the trial. On the fact being submitted in advance to the Court, by counsel on both sides, the indictment was ordered to be quashed, as it could not have been maintained.

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS.

WASHINGTON, March 20, 1861.
THE EFFECT OF THE RIVAL TARIFF LAWS.
The most serious feature of the national difficulty, and which troubles the administration as much as anything else, will be inspired by the difference between the two tariffs. New York cannot survive the drain upon her traffic. An extra session may be necessary to repeal the obnoxious Northern law.
JOHN COCHRAN'S MISSION TO VIRGINIA.
It is reported from Virginia that John Cochrane's visit there was timely and serviceable. His efforts here evidently are in behalf of a policy which shall strengthen the cause of the Union all over the Union.
THE VACANCY IN THE SUPREME COURT.
No one is yet designated for the Supreme Court. The ultra republicans have persuaded Mr. Lincoln to abandon Mr. Grier. Intimations are, however, heard, that Virginia is being explored for a ready, conservative, constitutional lawyer.
THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT.
There is a probability now to have Congress pass a law

declaratory that all ports in the seceding States are not ports of entry. This will not only remove the difficulty of collecting the revenue in vessels, which the Attorney General thinks would be unconstitutional, but would be highly beneficial to the States of North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland and Delaware. There is every reason to believe that arrangements will be made to have the whole of the thirty-four States of the Union represented in the next Congress.

A Senator from New England is making any appointments in the North until the seceding States are pacified, and the Southern appointments are all made. He will be removed to the Insane Asylum to-morrow.

THE STEAM SLOOP-OF-WAR PAWNEE.
The Engineers of the steam sloop of war Pawnee have reported her as being weak; that her excessive working, owing to some error in construction, throws the engines out of line to such an extent that it is impossible to keep them in order. The subject has been referred to the officers on board, and the probability is that a board of naval officers, constructors and engineers, will be ordered very soon to examine the Pawnee. That the result will be condemnation hardly any one doubts.

REORGANIZATION OF ARMY OFFICES.
The resignations of Captain Franklin, of Mississippi, and Lieut. O'Bannon, of South Carolina, both of the army were received to-day.

EXTRA SESSION OF CONGRESS TO BE CALLED.
As telegraphed last night, an extra session of Congress is inevitable.

THE ACTUAL AND PROSPECTIVE APPOINTMENTS TO OFFICE.

WASHINGTON, March 20, 1861.
The administration is showing its hand to the satisfaction of a numerous crowd of the disappointed. The fact is that for every office there are forty applicants, and, of course, thirty-nine of the forty are of the disappointed party.

APPOINTMENTS CONTINUED.
The Senate to-day confirmed the following nominations:

Charles F. Adams, Minister to England.
George P. Marsh, Minister to Spain.
James Watson Webb, Minister Resident at Constantinople.
H. S. Sanford, of Connecticut, Minister Resident at Belgium.

William S. Thayer, of New York, Consul General to Egypt.
Patrick J. Dyne, Consul to Cork.

Green Clay, nephew of Cassius M. Clay, Secretary of Legation to Spain.
Francis Queen, Postmaster at Milan, Michigan.

Henry Rhomo, Postmaster at Fremont, Ohio.
The Senate also unanimously confirmed the nomination of John D. Duffee, as Superintendent of the Public Printing. This appointment is popular. He will immediately take possession of and organize the new government Printing Bureau.

NOMINATIONS BY THE PRESIDENT.
Among other nominations to-day were the following:

Amos Burlingame, of Massachusetts, Minister to Austria.
Rufus King, of Wisconsin, Minister Resident at Rome.
Thos. J. Dryer, of Oregon, Commissioner to the Hawaiian Islands.

Bradford B. Wood, of New York, Minister Resident at Denmark.
Jas. O. Putnam, of New York, Consul to Havre.

Ex-Congressman Freeman H. Morse, of Maine, Consul to London.
J. W. Nye, of New York, Governor of the Territory of Nevada.

THE AUSTRIAN MISSION.
To-day the name of Amos Burlingame, of Massachusetts, was sent to the Senate as Minister to Austria, vice J. Quincy Jones, recalled, as indicated in my despatch to the HERALD yesterday.

THE PROSPECTS OF CARL SCHURZ.
Owing to a difference of opinion between the President, Mr. Seward and Carl Schurz, about a point at issue, the nomination of the latter for a first class mission to Portugal was not sent to the Senate to-day, but will go in to-morrow. This appointment of Carl Schurz will be a first class mission, notwithstanding the policy adopted by Mr. Seward, that he would not consent that any European refugee should have a first class mission to Europe.

THE MISSION TO THE PORTUGAL STATES.
General Rufus King, of Wisconsin, who made the tour of the West with Mr. Seward last fall, has been appointed Minister Resident to Rome. This will prove satisfactory because the General is popular with both wings of the party.

THE BELGIAN MISSION.
Mr. H. S. Sanford, of Connecticut, appointed Minister to Belgium, is said to be an anti-republican, and his nomination gives great offence to some of the republicans. He may yet be defeated.

THE IRISH MISSION.
H. Winter Davis, of Maryland, is talked of for the mission to St. Petersburg.

THE GOVERNORSHIP OF NEVADA.
General Nye, of New York, another personal and bonum friend of Mr. Seward, who accompanied him in his Western tour, to-day nominated Governor of the Territory of Nevada. While this will afford General Nye a rich opportunity to display his chivalric propensities in scaling every one of the savage Pa-Ute Indians, who were so gallantly repulsed by Colonel Lester at the battle of the wagon road party last summer, yet as Nye is specially contracted for the Governorship of Colorado, he is not inclined to accept the pleasant position in which the administration has placed him without so much as saying "By your leave, sir." However, Nevada, being so near to the Golden State, and so rich in soil and mineral products, may induce the General to waive the mistake, if it is one, and accept the appointment.

THE GOVERNORSHIP OF CALIFORNIA.
Mr. Irving, member of the last Congress, from New York, has been nominated Governor of Daotah Territory.

THE GOVERNORSHIP OF NEBRASKA.
David K. Carter, of Ohio, who announced a change of enough votes in his delegation from Chase to Lincoln, at Chicago, to decide the election of the latter, was to-day nominated Governor of Nebraska, vice Black, brother of the late Attorney General, removed.

THE GOVERNORSHIP OF COLORADO.
Wm. Gilpin, of Missouri, is mentioned for the Governorship of Colorado Territory, and will probably get it, if General Nye consents to go to Nevada.

THE GOVERNORSHIP OF NEW MEXICO.
The selection of a Governor for New Mexico is a difficult question to settle, and perplexes the administration. A man of ability and pluck is required to begin with. Besides, the man selected for that position must have a thorough knowledge of the evident intentions of the "Confederate," or seceded States, and must be a shrewd diplomat to do justice to the administration. It is believed that Mr. Seward will be in favor of some yielding, anti-fighting diplomatist who will sooner permit the soil of New Mexico to be the parade ground of South Carolina filibusters than to stand by the government, execute the laws and forbid any attempt to acquire any portion of Mexico, unless it is done peaceably and by the federal authorities of the United States.

Great indignation is felt at the report that Mr. Seward is in favor of Mr. Otero, the late democratic delegate from that Territory in Congress, for Secretary of the Territory, inasmuch as he was the author of the Territorial statute of New Mexico recognizing the existence of slavery. It is also known that some of Mr. Otero's family are South Carolina secessionists, which fact, while it does not reflect particularly against Mr. Otero from his standpoint, is viewed by leading republicans as a monstrous proposition, coming from Mr. Seward.

Mr. Ingersoll, of Kansas, formerly of Mass., is recommended by the New England interests for the position of Secretary of that Territory.

Col. Lander, a democrat, is urged by many republicans for Governor of New Mexico.

THE NEW YORK CITY APPOINTMENTS.
A consultation was held this morning by Gov. Seward and the New York Senators upon the subject of the New York City appointments.

THE FIRST CONTROLLER OF THE TREASURY.
Ex-Governor Boutwell, of Massachusetts, has declined to accept the post of First Controller of the United States Treasury.

THE MARSHALLSHIP OF KANSAS.
Mr. McDowell, of Illinois, is a candidate for Marshall of Kansas.

THE BOSTON ADVANCEMENT.
The Massachusetts delegation in Congress have agreed

to meet at Boston on the 30th of April, to settle the question of appointments. This distasteful action strikes the Massachusetts republicans here as singular, as it will afford the Postmaster of Boston the last of April, to be so fortunate to collect five hundred dollars in advance for a quarter's box rents. Besides, the administration, while they agreed to give the delegation time for a hearing, did not give them the power to state of appointments.

SECRETARY OF LEGATION TO ENGLAND.
It is understood that Bigelow Lawrence, of Boston, will go as Secretary of Legation to England.

THE BRAZIL MISSION.
Col. Thomas H. Nelson, of Indiana, will probably be sent to to-morrow as Minister to Brazil.

OUR WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENCE.

WASHINGTON, March 19, 1861.
The Executive of Fort Sumter—Impedance of Republicanism at the Delay of Executive Action—The Cause of the Delay—A Perplexing Dilemma—Dangers of Precipitation, &c., &c.

It is now over a week since the country was electrified by the announcement in the House of Representatives, when the administration chambered Fort Sumter. When that burning piece of intelligence first flashed over the land, a shock of indignant surprise was experienced throughout the republican North. Angry excitement and wrathful disappointment became manifest on all sides, and a sweeping storm of opposition appeared imminent. But a second sober thought prevailed in the end. Facts and figures demanded the stinging sense of wounded pride and deep humiliation. Gradually, though reluctantly, the rank and file of the republicans grew reconciled to the idea of giving away for the nonce, from inexcusable necessity to treason and rebellion. To be sure, to withdraw Major Anderson was to them like renouncing an article of their political faith, and abandoning the ardent hopes and recaling the fervent prayers of many months. Yet the case of meritification and consolation for them by Mr. Lincoln's predecessor, had to be swallowed, however large and bitter, and hence they set about preparing their minds for the emergency.

But, although the majority of Northern republicans are evidently ready for the consummation of what they have learned to consider inevitable—although they are ready to vote, if not their active approbation, at least their passive tolerance, of the most unpopular and yet necessary step the government of their election could possibly take—they loathe to be kept on the rack of suspense. They intend to abide by the action of the new administration in the premises, but they desire to act with promptness. They want to be rid of this demoralizing incubus at the earliest possible moment. They yearn to be relieved of the taints, jeers and ridicule the sorry evaporation of their promises and pledges upon them. They know that the only plausible argument in justification of its abandonment by order of the republic Executive was that it was a necessary compromise; and that it was being forced by the hour of delay. They feel that boldness of revolution and courage of execution are essentially indispensable qualities with those in power at the present juncture of public affairs, and hence they chafe under the indecision and procrastination that appear to characterize the first action of the new administration.

The inaugural phrase "to possess, hold and occupy the federal property." They feel that boldness of revolution and courage of execution are essentially indispensable qualities with those in power at the present juncture of public affairs, and hence they chafe under the indecision and procrastination that appear to characterize the first action of the new administration.

During the last ten days the Cabinet has had protracted meetings. At every sitting it is the question of what was to be done with Fort Sumter and the other posts in the seceded States still occupied by the federal troops. Unhappily the question has been the subject of long and animated discussion. The counsel of such experts as Gen. Scott, Col. Totten, Prof. Bach, and other military and scientific gentlemen, were sought and obtained upon the weighty matter, although not only the President, but also every member of his ministerial cabinet, yielded their political objections at an early moment to the military considerations, and in the end, the President, after a full and free discussion, recognized the inevitability of an abandonment and evacuation of the forts to the rebels.

The general impression appears to be that the evident hitch arrived at by the Cabinet is the result of indecision as to the more determination to evacuate. But the real obstruction lies in a different direction. It is the question how to effect the withdrawal of Major Anderson and his small band with safety, and without compromising the honor and dignity of the federal government, before the rebels, who are already in possession of the property and armaments of the forts. Still further, in deliberating upon this point an entirely new, and not the least perplexing, phase of this intricate problem has been introduced, and that is the question of the withdrawal of the cotton confederacy had instructed General Beauregard to allow the peaceful withdrawal of the garrison of Fort Sumter, without first obtaining by express stipulation security for the property and arms and important supplies in an intact condition. 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